

Lent 2016

engage together



A Resource for assisting those with responsibility for facilitating multi-age engagement throughout Lent, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Welcome to the special **Lent Edition** of **Engage Together!**

This **Lent Edition** of **Engage Together** includes...

Early Word outlines from Margaret Griffiths that can be used, adapted or serve as a launching pad for other ideas plus additional links compiled by Chris Barnett. Note, too, that for the first time links are included to the [Storypath](#) website. Based on the Revised Common Lectionary, the Storypath website connects quality children's literature with the set readings for each Sunday.

For those interested in further Lenten resources, including daily devotional readings and prayers, these can be found at [CTM Seasonal Resources](#).

Recognising the uniqueness of each individual congregation or faith community, these resources may or may not be helpful for your specific context. Be that as it may, any feedback to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au would be greatly appreciated as it will assist in the preparation of future Early Word resources.

Yours Faithfully,

Chris Barnett

(Children & Families, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria & Tasmania)

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Centre for Theology & Ministry

29 College Crescent, Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia

Telephone 03 9340 8800 Facsimile 03 9340 8805

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



February 14, 2016 LENT I

Bible: The setting of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness is a reminder of the desert wanderings of the Israelites in the Old Testament. We cannot understand it fully, as it was an experience only Jesus could have had. However, it is unlikely that the church would have created it, if the experience had not been real. Perhaps this was a profound test of Jesus' understanding of his calling – he had to trust God.

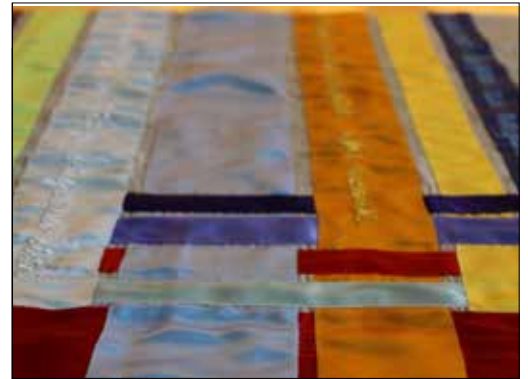
- I wonder if you have thought about different types of choices? Sometimes they are big choices; like who will I choose to come to my party? Sometimes they are small choices; which biscuit will I choose to eat? Some choices we make fast; like crossing the road and waiting until the cars clear. Some choices are slow choices; we have to think about them for a long time. Then maybe there are inside choices and outside choices. The things we may decide which only we know about ourselves would be inside choices. Outside choices may be things we have to choose to do which will affect all our family and friends. Jesus faced choices when he was in the wilderness. He was asked to change stones into bread because he was hungry. The devil said Jesus could control the whole world if he obeyed him and not God. As well the devil took him up to a very high part of the temple and said to jump down and God would look after him. But Jesus knew he could trust in God and God would look after him. Jesus would not follow these temptations.

- Make a big sign on card with the words 'GOD'S WAY'. Ask a child to show everyone.

Explain how Jesus had to make some decisions about right and wrong things. He had been out all by himself in the desert for a long time – the bible says 40 days - and he was very hungry. The devil said to Jesus that if he was really God's son Jesus could turn the stones into bread. But Jesus knew this wasn't God's way.

Then the devil said to Jesus that if he wanted to control the whole world all Jesus had to do was obey him and not God. But Jesus knew this was not God's way. The devil then took him up to a very high part of the temple and said to Jesus 'jump' down and God would look after him. Again Jesus knew this was not God's way.

Show the words again – GOD'S WAY. When we have to make choices, it may help us to think about God's way.



Reading

Luke 4:1-13

Choices

Multi-age Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/year-c-first-sunday-in-lent-february-14.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/lent-1-c.html>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-february-14-2016/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/III_be_back.htm





February 21, 2016 LENT 2

Bible: When Jesus is warned that Herod is out to get him, Jesus replies that the sly fox is not changing his mission. Jesus was going to continue his work. Jesus shows great sadness that the city of Jerusalem had a history of killing prophets and he is travelling towards this city. Jesus would like to gather the people of Jerusalem together like a hen gathers its brood under her wings.

1. Ask the children if they have, or had, any chickens. I wonder how the mother hen looks after her chickens? Invite some responses. In our reading today Jesus was saying that he would like to gather up people and care for them just like a mother hen cares for her chicks.

Tell a caring story from your local community or perhaps you may like to tell this one.

A long time ago, in a small country church, an older man gave out hymn books each Sunday morning. There was a young boy who helped him each week. None of the boy's family came to church and they questioned the boy as to why he went each week. The boy replied that the older man needed his help. The two had formed a great friendship and they cared for each other.

2. Relate the story of Jesus' care for the people of Jerusalem and how he would like to care for them like a mother hen. Suggest to children and the congregation that we should try to follow Jesus and care for others. Provide slips of paper for each person, children and adults, and ask them to write the name of someone they will especially care for this week. Put forward the idea that this person is not someone you usually care for, but a different person. Recommend that you put this piece of paper with the name on your fridge, or by the bedside, or somewhere where you will see it to remind you.



Reading

Luke 13:31-35

Jesus' Mission

Multi-age Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/year-c-second-sunday-in-lent-february.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/lent-2-c-february-21.html>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-february-21-2016/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/fox_hen_chicks.htm





February 28, 2016 LENT 3

Bible: The fig tree parable can be looked at in several different ways. One way is to think of the grace of God in allowing more time for the fig tree to bear fruit. God also allows more nourishment for the tree. However, another way of looking at the parable is to suggest that time is very short and if it doesn't produce very soon, it will be cut down.

Show a jar of fig jam. (If bold you could let people have a taste). The children may not have tasted fig jam but they could possibly have had some other sort of jam, so could relate to jam. Quite possibly most of the older members of the congregation would have tasted fig jam!

Tell the story as related in Luke 13: 6-9. Ask some wondering questions like:

I wonder if you have fruit trees in your garden? If you do, how do you or your family look after them? I wonder, how might we be a bit like the fig tree in Jesus' parable?

The good news though is that God, like the gardener, gives us more time to learn about him.

1. Tell the parable as related in Luke 13: 6-9 about the fig tree. Have prepared a large sheet of card, perhaps in the shape of a fig tree, with the words GOD LOVES printed on it. Also provide small pieces of paper (coloured would look effective) to give out to the whole congregation. Provide pens, pencils or textas for people to write their names on the paper. Children could assist in giving out paper and pens and then by collecting the completed sheets to put on the large sheet of card. Sticky tape or blu-tack will be needed to stick the names on the card. Children need to write their names too.

Conclude by showing the card and saying that God cares for each one of us just as the gardener cared for the fig tree.



Reading

Luke 13:1-9

To be a follower

Multi-age Links

[Worshiping with children](#)

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/year-c-third-sunday-in-lent-february-28.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/lent-3-c-february-28.html>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-february-28-2016/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/god_of_the_second_chance.htm





March 6, 2016

LENT 4

Bible: The Gospel readings are about situations to which the listeners could relate. Lost and found sheep in verses 1-3, would be a known occurrence. The parable of the Prodigal Son, is about the father who lost his two sons. One son wanted his inheritance before his father died, and went off and spent it all. The other son appears to stay with his father mainly for a reward, not because of a great love for his father. The father's love and welcoming attitude to both sons reminds us of God's great love for us.

1. Ask the children to mime actions and to lead the whole congregations to follow them, as you tell the Prodigal Son story.

Jesus said *'there was a man who had two sons'* [show two fingers].

The youngest came to his father and asked for his share of the property, because he wanted to go away and spend and have fun. The father was very sad [make a sad face]. *The younger son went away and spent all his money* [show empty pockets and hands]. *The younger son had to find farming work to earn some money. He was looking after pigs* [make grunting noises]. *He decided to go home and tell his father he was sorry and would work as a hired hand* [walking on the spot]. *His father had been looking out for him every day* [hand up to foreheads looking]. *When he saw his son coming he ran towards him.* [running on the spot]. *He hugged him and said they would have a big party* [hug yourself]. *The oldest son was not happy at all* [make a cross face] *but the father said your brother has come back home; he was lost but has been found* [hands outstretched in celebration].

2. This parable lends itself to drama. You could narrate the story and ask various children and adults to act out the various parts. For example, the very young children could act out being the pigs. Explain that everyone would have to listen carefully so that they could act out the story when the narrator reached that point. Don't expect to have a perfect play, but you will all have a lot of fun, and everyone will remember the story. Follow a good bible translation and read very slowly, or tell it in your own words.



Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Lost and Found

Multi-age Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/02/year-c-fourth-sunday-in-lent-march-6.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/lent-4-c-march-6unlimited-love.htm>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-march-6-2016/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/lost_and_found.htm





March 13, 2016 LENT 5

Bible: Jesus' public ministry is at an end. As the Passover festival approaches events move swiftly to a climax. Against a dark backdrop of hatred and treachery shines the story of one woman's love for Jesus. Perhaps intuitively sensing the tragedy ahead, Mary pours out the precious perfumed oil in a lavish extravagant gesture of affection. Judas asked why the perfume wasn't sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor (a working man earned one denarii a day – this was worth nearly a year's wages.) However, John tells us that Judas wasn't really interested in the poor!

1. Have some containers each containing something that has a strong smell. Make sure that the children cannot see what is inside. Pass the containers around and ask what they smell like. Do people like the smell? Then pass around a bottle of perfume – maybe not your best! Ask some wondering questions about perfume. I wonder when special perfume is used? I wonder who buys special perfume? I wonder if special perfume costs very much?

Lead into the story of Mary pouring the perfume over Jesus' feet and wiping his feet with her long hair. Some wondering questions could be asked such as – I wonder how Jesus felt after Mary had put the perfume on his feet? I wonder how we can show our love for Jesus?

2. Tell the story as John relates it in chapter 12 verses 1-8 using your own words. The perfume Mary poured over Jesus' feet was very precious and would have been very special for Mary. I wonder whether you have something that is very special for you. Invite responses. Show a box which you have placed some special item inside. Or inside the box you could have a card with the words 'GOD'S LOVE', and explain how this is special and precious for you.



Reading

John 12:1-8

Loving and Caring

Multi-age Links

[Worshiping with children](#)

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/02/year-c-fifth-sunday-in-lent-march-13.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/1ent-5-c-march-13.html>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-march-13-2016/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/giving-your-best.html>





March 20, 2016 PALM SUNDAY

Bible: Jesus told his twelve disciples that he was going to Jerusalem and they were worried because they knew some people were very angry with Jesus. The disciples considered that it could be dangerous. Jesus was becoming quite famous and there were some who wondered if he was the promised Messiah. The disciples and the crowd caught the Messianic significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Most important people rode on a horse! The crowd waved branches and called out "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel".

1. Discuss with the children about going to parades. I wonder if you have been to a parade? I wonder if you had a flag to wave? Relate the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Explain how the people were very surprised that Jesus was on a donkey: usually important people, and especially kings, rode in on a big horse. The people on the edges of the road didn't have any flags to wave, so they took some of the branches off the palm trees and waved them. They shouted out 'Hosanna! King Jesus! Hosanna!'

(Shouting "Hosanna" is a bit like shouting Hurrah!) Finishing the talk could be to ask the children to all practice waving their arms and calling out 'hurrah'.

2. Tell the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem and then act it out. Provide some small branches – palm, gum or cut out green paper in the shape of leaves. Decide who could act as Jesus. If you can obtain a toy horse on a stick, great, otherwise the actor as Jesus could pretend to be riding a donkey (some playgroups or kindergartens have a horsey stick). Position children and adults on either side of an aisle and process the donkey and Jesus slowly down the aisle. Encourage the spectators to call out 'Hosanna, King Jesus' and wave their branches.



Reading

John 12:12-16

Palm Sunday

Multi-age Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/year-c-palm-passion-sunday-march-20-2016.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/palm-sunday-march-20-in-and-out-of.html>

[Storypath](#)

<http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links-sunday-march-20-2016-palm-sunday/>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/rockconcert.html>





Additional Links

- **Lent Event**

[Lent Event – Resources](#)

<http://www.lentevent.com/resources/>

[Lent Event - Children](#)

<http://www.lentevent.com/wp-content/uploads/Lent-Event-Childrens-Resource.pdf>

- **Busted Halo**

[Busted Halo – Lent in 2 minutes](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3L3c23MfC0>

[Busted Halo – Lenten calendar](#)

<http://bustedhalo.com/features/fast-pray-give-2015>

- **Lent Ideas (BRF)**

[Barnabas in churches](#)

<http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/find/lent/ideas/>

[Barnabas in schools](#)

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/find/lent/ideas/>

[Faith in Homes](#)

<http://www.faithinhomes.org.uk/find/lent/>

- **Other Ideas**

[Lent & Easter \(Carolyn C. Brown\)](#)

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2016/01/year-c-observing-lent-and-easter-in-2016.html>

[Lent, Holy Week and Easter \(Pinterest\)](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/revmaryhawes/lent-holy-week-and-easter/>

[Lenten Journey 2016 \(Roots\)](#)

http://www.rootsontheweb.com/seasons-and-festivals/Churchseasons/Lent/Lenten_journey_2016

[Lent and Easter with Children \(Kids Friendly\)](#)

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/sharing-lent-and-easter-with-children/>



- **Multi-age Easter Services (UCA in South Australia)**

[Easter Services](#)

<http://sa.uca.org.au/uyp/church-resources/all-age-worship/easter-services>

[Easter Explorer](#)

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/childrenandfamily/resources/all-age-worship/Easter-Explorer.pdf>

[Easter: not just a long weekend](#)

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/childrenandfamily/resources/all-age-worship/EASTER-NOT-JUST-A-LONG-WEEKEND-1.pdf>

[Easter: not your typical love story](#)

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/childrenandfamily/resources/all-age-worship/Not-Your-Typical-Love-Story.pdf>

[Easter: together in mourning and joy](#)

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/childrenandfamily/resources/lent-and-easter/Easter-together-in-mourning-and-joy.pdf>

